

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A warm welcome to Rev Lee Kien Seng. He is the Senior Pastor of Trueway Presbyterian Church English Congregation.

Pray for Dn Lim Chien Chong as he prepares to speak next Sunday (21 August) from 1 Kings 20. Message title: "Missing God's Power and Grace" Service will be livestreamed at 9:30 am at bit.ly/gracebpsermons.

Adult Fellowship on Saturday 27 August at 5.00pm in church. Speaker: Rev Yap Kim Sin. Topic: "Thinking About Heaven." We will cater dinner from Hiding Place

Adults Fellowship and the Evangelism Committee will be organising a Farm Tour on 24 September. This will be an evangelistic event for you to invite friends & relatives to come for the farm tour with an evangelism sharing session. Please Contact Chew Gim for event registration.

Flower Contribution Slots available- 18 and 25 September.

Refreshment Contribution Slots available- 28 Aug, 4 & 18 September.

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

Speaker	Dn Lim Chien Chong
Worship Leader	Dn Jeremy Hor
Musicians	Lim Sue San, Stanley Poh
Scripture Reader	Magdalene Wong
AV Ministry	Dn Daniel Tan, Joshua Lim
Ushers	Tan Teck Shi, Jonathan Sam, Evonee Tee
Junior Worship	Hannah Yeo
Pre-Primary Worship	Lynna Seah
Flowers	Dn Allan Lim
Refreshments	Lynna Seah
Prayer Meeting Devotion	Margaret Teo

LAST WEEK'S GIVINGS

Offerings	\$ 3, 011.50
Tithes	\$ 6, 023.50

QR code for tithes & offerings (Please indicate "Tithe" or "Offering" under Reference no. / description)



LET US PRAY

Join us in praying for the church and the world via Zoom. Please contact Rev Tan at 9784 2761 for Zoom meeting ID and password. You may also email us your prayer items at prayer@gracebpc.org.sg

MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

Too Many Hypocrites

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:12 (ESV)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Moderator

Elder Victor Goh 9682 2281
Victor_Goh@gracebpc.org.sg

Co-Moderator

Elder Seah Soon Huat 9835 2178
Soon_Huat_Seah@gracebpc.org.sg

Honorary Pastor (Mandarin Service)

Rev Lee Fatt Ping 9668 1549
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Pastor (Mentoring)

Rev Tan Eng Boo 9784 2761
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Grace Bible Presbyterian Church



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Speaker

Rev Lee Kien Seng

Worship Leader

Dn Chea Oei Kiang

Musicians

Lim Sue San
Dn Jeremy Hor

Scripture Reader

Alex Chan

AV Ministry

Carol Lee
Janice Lee

Ushers

Richard Tan
Naomi Neoh

Junior Worship

Dn Lim Chien Chong

Pre-Primary Worship

Chen Ching Huey

Flowers

Tay Boon Jin

Refreshments

Tang Yu Sin

OUR MISSION

To bring people to salvation in Jesus Christ and disciple them in their relationship with Christ.

OUR VISION

To be a church that is passionate about God, transformed by the Word, authentic in relationship, and bold in witness.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Opening Song

MH173 Blessed Be the Name

Opening Prayer

Gloria Patri

Worship in Song

MH77 God Sees the Heart

Responsive Reading

Proverbs 19:15-29 (KJV)

Giving and Thanksgiving

Doxology

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19:1-18

Pre-Sermon Song

Afflicted Saint to Christ Draw Near

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel?

Closing Song

MH474 Constantly Abiding

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Month of August's Preaching Schedule

7 Aug	Opposition Against Moses (Numbers 12)
14 Aug	Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel? (1 Kings 19:1-18)
21 Aug	Missing God's Power & Grace (1 Kings 20)
28 Aug	He Humbled Himself (1 Kings 21)

Sunday Worship & Activities

9.30am Main Service	10.00am Junior Worship (7-12 yrs old)	11.30am Bible Classes
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IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN, ARE MY PRAYERS POINTLESS?

By John Piper

Well, there are three reasons why you should pray for things that you want, even though we know God's sovereign will will be done.

1. God commands us to pray for what we want.

He tells us to pray for what we want — provided our wants are shaped by his word. John 15:7: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish [literally whatever you want], and it will be done for you."

We're not supposed to try to divine the sovereign will of God, and then simply say, "Do that." That's not what prayer is. We do not know ahead of time the sovereign will of God that governs all things. We are supposed to let the word abide in us and shape our wants and our wishes by the revealed will of God, not by the sovereign, all-controlling will of God.

The revealed will of God, for example, is 1 Peter 3:11: "Seek peace and pursue it." Now, I don't know the way the sovereign will of God may work itself out in my life or your life in any certain situation. It may be crucifixion. That's not peace. I'm not after that. And that's what happened to Jesus. We pray toward what he tells us to pursue, not by trying to figure out what he sovereignly decrees.

So, that's number one: ask for what you want because the Bible says to ask for what you want, not to pray for the things that you dream up God's going to do tomorrow.

2. If we don't pray, we may not receive.

We should ask for what we want informed by the word, because if we don't, we may not get it. James 4:2: "You do not have, because you do not ask."

Now, let that sink in. There is a real causal connection between our asking and God's giving. The absence of asking is the cause of the absence of receiving. That's what James says: "You do not have, because you do not ask." So ask, lest in failing to ask, you fail to receive. There it is. Period. Believe that. Do that.

3. God sovereignly plans our prayers.

This is the reason that number two is valid — that we may fail to receive when we fail to ask. Here's the reason: God plans our prayers just as surely as he plans the events that he performs in answer to our prayers.

Take Jesus's prayer for Peter and for Peter's repentance after his denial, for

example, in Luke 22:32. He prays like this before Peter denied him, which he told him he would do: "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when [not if] you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

So, God had planned for Peter to deny Jesus. That's why Jesus knew he would. That's why Jesus said he would. And God had planned for Jesus to pray for Peter's repentance. And God had planned, in answer to that prayer, to cause Peter to repent, which he did.

It would make no sense to say God's will for Peter is going to happen no matter what Jesus prays, when in fact Jesus's prayer was part of what God willed. And that's the way it is with all prayer. God doesn't plan the world, and then wonder if anybody's going to pray for part of his plan to be changed. He plans the world, and part of his planning for the world is the praying of his people for what he plans to do. Here's an example from Ezekiel 36:36–37:

The nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it. Thus says the Lord God: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock.

Now, the word *let* doesn't quite get the sense of the Hebrew, as though God were just giving permission for them to pray, like, "I will allow the house of Israel to ask me to do this." No, more literally, it's a statement of intention and purpose from God. It says, "This also I will be sought" — that is, prayed to. "This also I will be sought by the house of Israel to do for them: to increase them like a flock of men."

In other words, God intends to restore and increase Israel, and so he purposes, he plans, he intends, their prayer for this: "I will be sought by the house of Israel to do this for them because I intend to do this for them, as I have just said." So, the third reason we should ask for what we want, what we wish, is that God plans our prayers just as surely as he plans the events that come from them.

About the Author: John Piper (@JohnPiper) is founder and teacher of desiringGod.org and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For 33 years, he served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is author of more than 50 books, including *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist* and most recently *What Is Saving Faith?*

Article excerpt taken from [The Gospel Coalition \(U.S. Edition\)](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/stop-praying-stuff/). Read the full resource here: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/stop-praying-stuff/>